

CLAIMS:

1. A method of communicating data in a cellular telecommunication network (3) in which the available capacity is not uniformly distributed, comprising the steps
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tracking (S1) the locations of a mobile station (1) moving in the cellular telecommunication network (3); and
scheduling (S4) the data communication to or from the mobile station (1) in accordance with the available capacity
10 of the network at the current and future locations of the mobile station,

wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station at the current location of the mobile station is prioritized in the scheduling step when the available capacity
15 at future locations is less than that at the current location, and

wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station at the current location of the mobile station is delayed in the scheduling step when the available capacity
20 at future locations is higher than that at the current location.

2. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

25 estimating (S12) the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of the locations tracked in the tracking step (S1).

3. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

estimating (S12) the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of route information about the moving mobile station provided by the mobile station.

35 4. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

estimating (S12) the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of movement patterns of the mobile station.

5 5. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

estimating (S13) the available capacity of the network at the current and future locations of the mobile station on the basis of an estimated current and future traffic load
10 distribution of the network in the area in which and towards the mobile station is moving.

15 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the area comprises cells, groups of cells, geographical areas and network nodes.

7. The method according to claim 1, comprising the further step of:

20 estimating (S3) the data communication needs of the mobile station.

25 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station is prioritized in the scheduling step when the data communication needs exceed a specific amount of data to be communicated.

30 9. The method according to claim 5, wherein the mobile station executes measurements of the traffic load distribution in the area and along the path in which it is moving, and wherein the available capacity of the current and future locations of the mobile station is estimated on the basis of the measurement results.

35 10. The method according to claim 7, comprising the further step of:

buffering data transmitted to and from the mobile station (1), wherein the estimation of the data communication needs of the mobile station (1) is performed by monitoring the amount of buffered data.

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11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the data communication needs of the mobile station are estimated on the basis of a transmission request from the mobile station.

10 12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the mobile station executes the measurements according to traffic load distribution information received from the network.

15 13. The method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of mobile stations each having data communication needs are present in the network, and wherein the data communications of the plurality of mobile stations are scheduled in accordance with the available capacity of the network.

20 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the data communications of the plurality of mobile stations are scheduled in accordance with estimated data communication needs of these mobile stations.

25 ~~15.~~ A telecommunication system for communicating data in a cellular telecommunication network (3) in which the available capacity is not uniformly distributed, comprising:
control means (2) communicating with a mobile station (1) and the cellular telecommunication network (3), for
30 tracking the locations of the mobile station (1) moving in the cellular telecommunication network (3), and for scheduling the data communication to or from the mobile station in accordance with the available capacity of the network at the current and future locations of the mobile
35 station,

wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station at the current location of the mobile station is prioritized by the control means when the available capacity at future locations is less than that at the current

5 location, and

wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station at the current location of the mobile station is delayed by the control means when the available capacity at future locations is higher than that at the current

10 location.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control means estimate the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of the tracked locations.

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17. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control means estimate the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of route information about the moving mobile station provided by the mobile station.

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18. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control means estimate the future locations of the mobile station on the basis of movement patterns of the mobile station.

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19. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control means estimate the available capacity of the network at the current and future locations of the mobile station on the basis of an estimated current and future traffic load distribution of the network in the area in which and towards 30 the mobile station is moving.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the area comprises cells, groups of cells, geographical areas and network nodes.

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21. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control means estimate the data communication needs of the mobile station.

5 22. The system according to claim 21, wherein the data communication to or from the mobile station is prioritized by the control means when the data communication needs exceed a specific amount of data to be communicated.

10 23. The system according to claim 19, wherein the mobile station executes measurements of the traffic load distribution in the area and along the path in which it is moving, and wherein the control means estimate the available capacity of the current and future locations of the mobile
15 station on the basis of the measurement results transmitted from the mobile station to the control means.

24. The system according to claim 21, wherein the control means monitor buffers for buffering data transmitted to and
20 from the mobile station (1), and estimate the data communication needs of the mobile station (1) on the basis of the monitored amount of buffered data.

25. The system according to claim 21, wherein the control means estimate the data communication needs of the mobile station on the basis of a transmission request from the mobile station.

30 26. The system according to claim 23, wherein the mobile station executes the measurements according to traffic load distribution information received from the network.

35 27. The system according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of mobile stations each having data communication needs are present in the network, and wherein the data communications

of the plurality of mobile stations are scheduled in accordance with the available capacity of the network.

28. The system according to claim 27, wherein the data communications of the plurality of mobile stations are scheduled in accordance with estimated data communication needs of these mobile stations.